

to discourage unauthorized workers from entering this country illegally to seek work. Ensuring a legal workforce must be a key component of any immigration bill moving through Congress.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to build on this proposal to achieve a bipartisan solution to immigration reform.

#### HONORING BROOKE EDWARDS

#### HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 28, 2008*

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an essay written by Brooke Edwards, a fourth grader from Flippen Elementary School in McDonough, Georgia. Her school sponsored a writing contest in which students answered the ever patriotic question, "Why I'm Proud to be an American." It is stories like these that inspire all citizens. I am proud to report to the U.S. House of Representatives that Brooke won first place in the contest, I would like to submit her essay into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for all Americans to read.

#### WHY I'M PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN

My name is Brooke Edwards and I'm a fourth grader. I go to Flippen Elementary School in McDonough, Georgia. I'm proud to live in Georgia because it is in the United States and I'm proud to be an American. What do I like about America? I like our freedom, military, and our 4th of July.

My first reason why I'm proud to be an American is freedom. I like our freedom because we don't have kings or queens bossing us around. For example, England has a queen. We can vote for our presidents. In America we have a choice that other countries don't have.

My next reason is our military. Brave men and women fight everyday all around the world for our freedom. We wouldn't be free if we didn't have the military. We have men and women who are veterans. They served our country and made me feel proud.

My final reason is our 4th of July. On the 4th of July, we celebrate our freedom and have fun too. We also celebrate our flag on the 4th of July because it stands for America. I love the 4th of July!

There are many reasons I like being an American. I like our freedom, military, and our 4th of July. These are my favorite parts of America.

#### WILLIAM BARRETT TRAVIS

#### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 28, 2008*

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, it all started way back in 7th grade, Mrs. Wilson made Texas history come alive and my fascination with Texas legends like Sam Houston, Davy Crockett, James Bowie, and of course my personal favorite, William Barrett Travis, took root. It was this month, 172 years ago, that Travis, a 27-year-old lawyer, penned the most famous letter in Texas history from behind the walls of a besieged, rundown mission in San Antonio.

"To the people of Texas and all Americans in the world, fellow citizens and compatriots,

I am besieged by a thousand or more of the enemy under Santa Anna. I have sustained a continual bombardment and cannon fire for over 24 hours, but I have not lost a man.

The enemy has demanded surrender at its discretion. Otherwise, the fort will be put to the sword. I have answered that demand with a cannon shot. And the flag still waves proudly over the north wall.

I shall never surrender or retreat. I call upon you, in the name of liberty and patriotism and everything dear to the American character, to come to my aid with all dispatch. If this call is neglected, I am determined to sustain myself for as long as possible, die like a soldier who never forgets what is due his honor and that of his country. Victory or death.

As a child, I was so intrigued by this letter. I would always be the first in my class to volunteer to play Travis at any given opportunity, if only just to read his words aloud. To me, he was the ultimate hero. Travis and his rag-tag group of relentless freedom fighters, made up of men from nearly every State in the Union and 13 foreign countries, including Mexico, held off an entire army of several thousand for 13 days. Defeat was not an option. Retreat was never on the table. Victory or death. And the rest is—as they say—Texas history.

History teaches us everything we need to know, if we just look. This letter was written nearly 2 centuries ago and its message still rings true today. It's a story of "liberty and patriotism and everything dear to the American character." Freedom is still worth dying for. And to do so as a soldier, "is what is due his honor and that of his country."

Travis believed these words, believed that the cause for independence was his life. Our freedom fighters today understand these words as well, they know that America is worth fighting for and that defeat is not an option. We must not neglect the call.

Unfortunately, the call for help was not answered in time. Commander Travis and 187 volunteers sacrificed their lives on the altar of freedom after 13 glorious days at the Alamo. The youngest to die for Texas was 15-year-old William Phillip King. The oldest to die was Gordon C. Jennings. He was 56. Their sacrifice would later be remembered along the banks of the San Jacinto as GEN Sam Houston led the Texans to victory and freedom. But their courage will never be forgotten.

Travis isn't just my favorite Texas war hero, he has intertwined himself throughout my life and even the lives of my children and grandchildren. He is the inspiration behind my profession. I always wanted to be a great lawyer like William Barrett Travis. My grandson, Barrett Houston, is even named after Travis. Inscribed along the bottom of my stationery are his words, "I shall never surrender or retreat," and for as long as I can remember, I end every letter with his famous words, "God and Texas." Because of men like William Barrett Travis, Texas is the great State that it is today. His legacy embodies the passion and loyalty that make Texans stand out around the world.

And that's just the way it is.

#### DEFENDERS OF THE ALAMO WHO SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES

Alabama: James Buchanan, William Fishbaugh, Galba Fuqua, Issac White.

Arkansas: Issac G. Baker, Jesse G. Thompson, Henry Warnell.

Connecticut: Gordon C. Jennings.

Georgia: Albert (Alfred) Calvin Grimes, William T. Malone, Elice (Eliel) Melton, Manson Shied, William Wells, William Wills

Illinois: Jonathan L. Lindley.

Kentucky: Peter James Bailey III, James Bowie, Daniel William Cloud, Jacob C. Darst, John Davis, William H. Fauntleroy, John E. Gaston, John Harris, William Daniel Jackson, Green B. Jameson, John Benjamin Kellogg, Andrew Kent, Joseph Rutherford, B. Archer M. Thomas, Joseph G. Washington.

Louisiana: Charles Despalier, James W. Garrard, Joseph Kerr, Isaac Ryan.

Maryland: Charles S. Smith.

Massachusetts: John Flanders, William D. Howell, William Linn, Amos Pollard.

Mississippi: M.B. Clark, Isaac Millsaps, Willis A. Moore, George Pagan, Christopher Adams Parker.

Missouri: William Charles M. Baker, George D. Butler, Charles Henry Clark, George Washington Cottle, Jerry C. Day, George W. Tumlinson.

New Hampshire: Robert E. Cochran.

New Jersey: Richard Lucius Stockton.

New York: Robert W. Cunningham, Lewis Dewart, Samuel B. Evans, John Hubbard Forsyth, John Jones, James Tylee.

North Carolina: Micajah Autry, Dolphin Ward Floyd, William Parks, Mial Scurlock, Joshua G. Smith, John W. Thomson, Claiborne Wright.

Ohio: William B. Harrison, Tapely Holland, Robert Musselman, James M. Rose.

Pennsylvania: John J. Ballentine, James Murry Brown, John Cain (Cane), Robert Crossman, David P. Cummings, James Hannum, Samuel Holloway, William Johnson, George C. Kimble (Kimbell), William McDowell, John Purdy Reynolds, John M. Thurston, Hiram James Williamson, John Wilson.

Rhode Island: Albert Martin.

South Carolina: James Butler Bonham, Lemuel Crawford, George Neggan, Edward Nelson, George Nelson, Cleveland Kinloch Simmons, William Barrett Travis.

Tennessee: Joseph Bayliss, John Blair, Samuel C. Blair, Jesse B. Bowman, James (Robert) Campbell, David Crockett, Squire Daymon, William Dearduff, Almeron Dickerson (Dickinson), John Henry Dillard, James L. Ewing, James Girard Garret, Andrew Jackson Harrison, Charles M. Haskell, John M. Hays, William Marshall, Jesse McCoy, Robert McKinney, Thomas R. Miller, William Mills, Andrew M. Nelson, James Waters Robertson, Andrew H. Smith, A. Spain Summerlin, William E. Summers, Edward Taylor, George Taylor, James Taylor, William Taylor, Asa Walker, Jacob Walker.

Texas: Juan Abamillo, Juan Antonio Badillo, Carlos Espalier, Gregorio (Jose Maria) Esparza, Antonio Fuentes, Damacio Jimenez, William Phillip King, William Irvine Lewis, William J. Lightfoot, Jose Toribio Losoya, Andres Nava, Richardson Perry.

Vermont: Miles Deforest Andross.

Virginia: Robert Allen, John J. Baugh, William R. Carey, William Garnett, John Camp Goodrich, Patrick Henry Herndon, James Kenny, George Washington Main, Edward F. Mitchasson, Robert B. Moore, James Northcross.

Denmark: Charles Zanco.

England: William Blazeby, Daniel Bourne, George Brown, Stephen (or Ireland) Dennison, James R. Dimpkins, James C. Gwynne, William Daniel Hersee, James Nowlan, Marcus L. Sewell, Richard Starr, James E. Stewart, Thomas Waters, Anthony (Avram) Wolfe, son age 12 Wolfe, son age 11 Wolfe.

Ireland: Samuel E. Burns, Andrew Duvalt, Robert Evans, Joseph M. Hawkins, Thomas Jackson, James McGee, Jackson J. Rusk, Burke Trammel, William B. Ward.

Germany: Henry Courtman, Henry Thomas.

Scotland: Richard W. Ballentine, John McGregor, Isaac Robinson, David L. Wilson.